Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Bonsall Urban District Council.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28939360

WIRKSWORTH,
DERBYSHIRE.

March 11th, 1916.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Bonsall Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1915.

A Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

1. Elevation of the District from 450 to 1,100. O.D.

Geology—Limestone formation.

Area—Land 2,392 acres. Water 5 acres. Total 2,397 acres.

	Census 1901.	Census 1911.	Estimated Civil Population.
Population—	1356.	1248.	1214.
Inhabited Houses—	320.	311.	—

New Houses erected during the year—Nil.

Rateable Value—£4,857 10s. 0d. Assessable Value—£3,169 13s. 9d.

General District Rate—3/- in the £.

2. The Inhabitants of the district are chiefly engaged in farming and stone quarrying; a few are employed in Cotton Mills. Such employments have no particular tendency to disease.

3. The Poor Law Relief during the year amounted to £167 6s. 3d.

B Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

1. **Water Supply.** Although the year has been a rather dry one, especially during the early summer months, the water supply was equal to all demands made upon it and there were no complaints of shortness of supply.

Ten houses are supplied from surface wells, but no case of pollution occurred.

There are still 56 houses with no supply within 100 yards.

The extension and connection of the two mains from the Manor and Boiling Pot reservoirs was completed early in the year.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** The stream which runs through the Village continues to be polluted with sewage.

3. **Drainage and Sewerage.** Slow but steady improvement continues to be made with drainage.

4. **Closet Accommodation.** The approximate number of houses with :—

Privy Middens.	Pail Closets.	Water Closets.
175	124	26

There were nine insanitary privies which were remedied. Eight privies were converted into pail closets.

The general policy of the district is to convert privies into pail closets.

5. **Scavenging.**—Public scavenging is available for all the houses in the district with the exception of outside farm houses.

Scavenging is carried out by the Council's refuse carts fortnightly.

6. **Sanitary Inspection of the District.**—(*a*) The Inspector of Nuisances has made over 300 inspections during the year for private houses, cow-houses, dairies and bake-houses.

(*b*) He has served 23 informal notices, and no statutory notice.

The number of premises visited was 320.

There were 15 defects of nuisances discovered, all of which have been remedied.

There was one case of overcrowding.

The Sanitary Inspector states in his report that there has been some improvement in drains but more is still needed, especially the exterior of sewers in Bell Lane, Upper Town, Bonsall.

7. **Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws.**—There are three premises which can be controlled by bye-laws, one bake-house, one slaughter-house, and one cotton mill. These were inspected by your Sanitary Inspector and were found satisfactory.

There are no lodging houses, cellar-dwellings or offensive trades.

8. **Schools.**—There are two schools, the Endowed and the Church Elementary School. The sanitary condition of both is good, and the water supply efficient.

There was no occasion to close either school during the year.

The School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health.

Provision has now been made to inspect children between 8 and 9 years of age, an excellent innovation, for formerly a child was only examined on entering and leaving school, *i.e.* at 5 and 13 years of age.

I am pleased to say that on the whole the children were clean, well clothed and in a good state of health both mental and physical.

9. **Food.**—(*a*) **Milk Supply.**—The number of Cow-keepers on the register is 35, an increase of five over last year.

The approximate number of Cows is 200—a decrease of 30 under last year.

All the Cow-keepers are Milk-sellers.

There are no Milk-sellers who are not Cow-keepers.

Cowsheds—The cubic feet per cow varies from 230 to 260.

There were no cows condemned on account of tuberculosis.

The Dairies,' Cowsheds' and Milk-shops' Orders of 1885 and 1899 are acted up to.

The milk is produced within the district.

There were 40 inspections made of cow-houses and dairies. No defects were found.

(*b*) **Other Foods.**—The condition of both bake-house and slaughter-house is satisfactory.

There were 14 inspections of premises where foods are prepared. No articles were condemned.

10. **Housing.**—All the houses were inspected under the Town Improvement Act. None were found to be injurious to health.

11. **Factories and Workshops.**—The Factory was inspected and was found to be in every way satisfactory.

C Sanitary Administration of the District.

The Sanitary Inspector has carried out his duties throughout the year in an efficient manner. He has been active and prompt in dealing with minor defects.

D Prevalence and Control over Acute Infectious Disease.

I am glad to record that the district has been singularly free from acute infectious disease during the year.

Only two cases were notified throughout the year, viz: a mild case of erysipelas on January 2nd, and a case of diphtheria on September 27th, in an outlying farm house on the borders of the district.

Both cases recovered and the infection spread no further.

E Prevalence and Control over Tuberculosis.

There is no special incidence of the disease in the district.

I am happy to record that no case was notified during the year, and there was no death from any form of tuberculosis.

During my visits to the Bonsall Schools as School Medical Officer I questioned the scholars on simple hygiene as they had been receiving instruction on the subject through the agency of the County Council, and in this connection I gave in simple language an outline of Consumption and the means adopted for its control and prevention. The scholars at both schools showed interest and appreciation, and their answers were intelligent.

F Investigation of Other Diseases.

There is no particular influence threatening the health of the district and no outbreak of food poisoning occurred.

G Means for preventing Infant Mortality.

I am glad to be able to report that no infant death occurred in the district during the year.

H Special Reports.

Nothing occurred in the district to make a special report.

Vital Statistics of the District.

The total number of deaths for the year is 13, and of these 6 were males and 7 females. Two of these occurred outside the district.

In accordance with instruction from the Registrar General your civil population has been estimated at 1214.

Your actual local death-rate accordingly, excluding the two deaths of residents not registered in the district, is 9·06.

Your death-rate inclusive of those not registered in the district is 10·7.

There was 1 uncertified death, a female 41 years of age.

The was no illegitimate death.

Your average age at death of both sexes combined is 53, a high average.

Births. Turning now to the births the figures are not so encouraging. There were registered 27—13 males and 14 females.

This is a distinct falling off from last year when 40 were registered, and is well below the average for the past five years.

The birth rate is 22·2, the lowest rate since the year 1910, and is a contrast to last year's, when it was 31·17.

One male birth was illegitimate.

Causes of Death.—In the table of Causes of Death there were 4 from heart disease, 2 from bronchitis, 1 from bronco-pneumonia, 1 from cancer, 1 uncertified and 4 from other defined diseases.

Thus in the foregoing you will note there is no death from any notifiable disease, testifying to the good sanitary state of the locality.

In conclusion, Gentlemen,

Your comparative immunity from infectious diseases; no infant mortality; low death rate; testify to the general healthiness of your district and to the efficiency of sanitary control.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GEORGE HARVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.